

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 22, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 25, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2385

Introduced by Assembly Member John A. Perez
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Buchanan)

February 19, 2010

An act to add and repeal Article 3.7 (commencing with Section 78265) of Chapter 2 of Part 48 of Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2385, as amended, John A. Perez. Pilot Program for Accelerated Nursing and Allied Health Care Profession Education at the California Community Colleges.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. Existing law establishes community college districts, each of which is administered by a governing board, throughout the state, and authorizes these districts to provide instruction to students at the community college campuses maintained by the districts.

The bill would establish the Pilot Program for Accelerated Nursing and Allied Health Care Profession Education at the California Community Colleges, and would ~~authorize~~ *require* the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to design a pilot program in accordance with prescribed criteria with the goal of facilitating early graduation by reducing the time it takes to earn a degree

to 18 months or less for students participating in the pilot program. The bill would require the chancellor's office to establish policies and procedures for the process of establishing an application process that would lead to the selection of the community college campuses that would participate in the pilot program. The bill would require the chancellor's office to design the program to commence in the 2012–13 academic year and to provide accelerated learning in a variety of formats, including online and distance learning courses and intensive weekend and evening course modules.

The bill would authorize participating campuses to admit students to the pilot program in accordance with the multicriteria screening process, as prescribed. The bill would also require participating campuses to provide specified support services. The bill would authorize the chancellor's office to solicit and receive federal and private sector funds for the pilot program, and would require those federal and private funds to be deposited in the Pilot Program for Accelerated Nursing and Allied Health Care Profession Education at the California Community Colleges Fund, which the bill would establish, to be available for expenditure upon appropriation by the Legislature.

The bill would require the chancellor's office to collect appropriate data for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program. The bill would require the chancellor's office to analyze this data, and report its findings and recommendations with respect to the pilot program to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2017.

The bill would provide that the pilot program would become inoperative on July 1, 2017, and as of January 1, 2018, would be repealed.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Allied health care occupations are expected to grow
- 4 dramatically in the next decade, and California labor market data
- 5 show that, by 2017, allied health care occupations are projected
- 6 to account for more than ~~1.1 million~~ 1,100,000 jobs around the
- 7 state, which would be an increase of close to 130,000 jobs, or 13
- 8 percent, from 2007.

1 (b) Reports from health care industry experts project a growing
2 demand for care due to burgeoning population growth and an aging
3 population. Impending retirements by health care employees will
4 place additional strain on a system struggling to hire the large
5 numbers of qualified, well-trained workers needed to meet the
6 demands of the health care industry.

7 (c) Although one of the most publicized shortage areas is that
8 of registered nurses, a wide variety of allied health care occupations
9 also are facing worker shortages.

10 (d) The California Community Colleges system currently trains
11 approximately 70 percent of registered nurses statewide, and the
12 system offers educational programs in a variety of allied health
13 care professions.

14 (e) Allied health care profession education programs are among
15 the most costly education programs offered by colleges, and they
16 have been subject to deep state budget cuts.

17 (f) Community colleges have been forced by the current fiscal
18 climate to limit their enrollment capacity, and therefore these
19 campuses are struggling to keep pace with the level of demand for
20 health care education programs.

21 (g) Currently, most associate degree nursing and allied health
22 care profession courses are offered over four semesters or two
23 school years, and require the completion of 70 units in program
24 courses, assuming that the student has met all of the prerequisite
25 requirements and is ready to start the program.

26 (h) The goal of an accelerated program would be to allow
27 students to attend full-time and earn their degrees sooner.

28 (i) A successful accelerated program could be a center of
29 innovation and a testing ground for the newest educational
30 technology and curricular ideas.

31 SEC. 2. Article 3.7 (commencing with Section 78265) is added
32 to Chapter 2 of Part 48 of Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education
33 Code, to read:

34
35 Article 3.7. Pilot Program for Accelerated Nursing and Allied
36 Health Care Profession Education at the California Community
37 Colleges
38

39 78265. (a) The Pilot Program for Accelerated Nursing and
40 Allied Health Care Profession Education at the California

1 Community Colleges is hereby established under the administration
2 of the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community
3 Colleges. The goal of the pilot program shall be to facilitate the
4 early graduation of participating community college nursing and
5 allied health students by reducing the amount of time necessary
6 to earn a degree.

7 (b) The chancellor's office shall establish the pilot program at
8 five campuses geographically distributed throughout the state. The
9 chancellor's office ~~may~~ *shall* establish procedures and policies so
10 that interested community college campuses may apply for
11 participation in the pilot program. The chancellor's office shall
12 also develop and apply criteria for the selection of the five
13 campuses that will participate in the program. These criteria shall
14 include, but not necessarily be limited to, the extent to which an
15 applying campus offers coursework in the allied health care
16 occupations where the need is greatest, and the existence and
17 quality of partnerships between the applying campuses and
18 hospitals and clinics in their respective communities in order to
19 enable participating students to obtain appropriate clinical
20 experience. In developing and applying these criteria, the
21 chancellor's office shall consult with major employers of health
22 care professionals in this state.

23 (c) The chancellor's office shall design the pilot program with
24 the intent that it shall be implemented at the participating campuses
25 commencing with the 2012–13 academic year.

26 78265.1. As used in this article the following definitions apply:

27 (a) "Chancellor's office" means the Office of the Chancellor of
28 the California Community Colleges.

29 (b) "Pilot program" means the Pilot Program for Accelerated
30 Nursing and Allied Health Care Profession Education at the
31 California Community Colleges established by Section 78265.

32 78265.3. (a) The pilot program shall provide accelerated
33 learning in a variety of formats, and shall provide student success
34 services to facilitate a student's completion of the program in 18
35 months or three semesters, or less.

36 (b) The accelerated learning provided by the pilot program shall
37 include online and distance learning courses, allowing students to
38 accelerate their course-taking patterns and progress rapidly through
39 the requirements of a nursing or allied health care education
40 program. Online and distance learning courses made available

1 under this section shall meet the curriculum standards approved
2 for these courses by the appropriate state entity that oversees each
3 health occupation program.

4 (c) The accelerated learning provided by the pilot program shall
5 include intensive weekend and evening course modules, similar
6 to accelerated executive graduate programs designed for working
7 professionals.

8 78265.5. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that the pilot
9 program attract and admit a diverse and talented pool of students
10 likely to succeed in an accelerated program and to thrive upon
11 entering a health care profession.

12 (b) To effectuate the legislative intent expressed in subdivision
13 (a), both of the following shall occur:

14 (1) In selecting students for admission to the pilot program,
15 participating campuses may use the multicriteria screening process
16 established under Section 78261.5 when the use of this process is
17 deemed feasible.

18 (2) Participating campuses shall provide support services to
19 help students stay and complete the academically rigorous
20 accelerated pilot program. These support services shall include,
21 but not necessarily be limited to, the presence of student success
22 advisors, tutors, mentors, appropriate financial assistance, and aid
23 in placing students who complete the program in appropriate
24 internships.

25 78265.7. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that the pilot
26 program be funded with a combination of state apportionment
27 funding, student fees, federal grants, and private philanthropic
28 resources.

29 (b) To effectuate the legislative intent expressed in subdivision
30 (a), the chancellor's office shall make every feasible effort to secure
31 federal and private sector funding for the pilot program.
32 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the chancellor's office
33 may solicit and accept funding from federal and private sources.
34 Funds received pursuant to this subdivision shall be deposited in
35 the Pilot Program for Accelerated Nursing and Allied Health Care
36 Profession Education at the California Community Colleges Fund,
37 which is hereby created. Funds deposited in the fund under this
38 section shall be available for expenditure for the purposes of this
39 article, upon appropriation by the Legislature.

1 78265.8. The chancellor's office shall collect appropriate data
2 for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program.
3 The chancellor's office shall analyze this data, and report its
4 findings and recommendations with respect to the pilot program
5 to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2017.
6 78265.9. This article shall become inoperative on July 1, 2017,
7 and, as of January 1, 2018, is repealed, unless a later enacted
8 statute, that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2018,
9 deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and
10 is repealed.